

BATTLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT
for
1944.

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BATTLE RURAL DISTRICT

Mr. Chairman & Members of the Battle Rural District Council;

I have the honour of presenting my eleventh Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health of the Battle Rural District.

As in the previous years of the war it is shortened by direction of the Ministry of Health. A few such things as details of water analysis are omitted, and certain lists, but little or nothing dealing directly with the activities of the Public Health Department is left out.

In accordance with the resolution of the Council of October 7th, 1943 Minute 136, a short report on the general health and incidence of notified disease in the District was presented on February 7th, 1945.

Though much of the work resulting from them fell on the Works Engineer's Department it is right that the flying bombs should be mentioned. They certainly affected public health if life and housing and food supply are included in that category.

The damage done by the bombs necessitated concentrating on housing. Ordinary public health work was hindered. Even the office was damaged. Milk sampling fell away from mere lack of time for it. Much food from damaged premises had to be inspected.

Domestic shelters were not issued to our area until the flying bombs began to arrive. Distributing them was difficult. Transport was scanty and had to be improvised but some 4,380 domestic shelters were delivered in about a fortnight.

The Works Engineer gratefully acknowledges the willing co-operation of builders who by grouping together under the Council enabled first-aid repairs to be done without delay. Repairs to farm buildings, oasts, cowsheds and barns were of first importance in maintaining food supplies.

All who went about noted the high courage of the average man woman and child. Few complained. All realized the situation and made the best of it. The fortunate were always ready to help those whose homes were damaged.

Members of the rescue parties watching our planes shooting down the flying bombs used to have sweepstakes on where the bombs would fall.

Miss Sturt was voluntary Staff Officer to Casualty Services. Mr. A. R. Harman was Deputy First Aid Commandant till March 17th when the office lapsed.

Mr. A. E. Harris continued his salvage work.

Mr. W. Francis was in charge of gas-contamination, with Mr. W. Ramsden as his deputy.

Mr. Francis also lectured as A.R.P.S. Instructor and had duties in the control room.

Shortage of staff still hampered the work of the Public Health Department. Attempts to obtain the release of Mr. W. T. Dunford had not succeeded before the end of the year.

Lack of water was still a matter for concern. Of 33 water samples 23 were unsatisfactory.

Scabies remained a nuisance but probably rather less than in 1943.

Insulin, in accordance with Circular 2734 of the Ministry of Health, was supplied to three people.

The most marked differences between the numbers of cases of disease notified in 1943 and 1944 are, measles, 544 in 1943; 49 in 1944 and whooping cough, 5 in 1943; 122 in 1944.

In 1943 there were four cases of diphtheria, in 1944 only two. Neither patient had been immunized.

Diphtheria Immunization, from a medical point of view, is the most important activity of the Public Health Department. It is of national as well as of local importance.

A dept of gratitude is owed to the hon. Deputy M.O.H., Col. J. E. H. Sawyer, M.D. M.R.C.P., who has been indefatigable in holding clinics throughout the year.

These Clinics are arranged from the Council offices and not the clinics only but the sorting, grouping and tabulating the names, ages and results.

All this entails a great deal of very careful work and I cannot pay too high a tribute to Miss Whatley, the Clerk of the Public Health and Surveyor's Department and to her assistant Miss Hearnshaw for their indefatigable accuracy.

But however good the staff work the success of the Clinics depends largely on the Nurses who busy as they were before immunization began have willingly accepted a large addition to their duties. Nor must the co-operation of Head Teachers be forgotten. Though the Clinics give work and hinder their ordinary exacting routine they have always been helpful.

Nevertheless the labours of all these would be in vain but for the parents. They know the danger of diphtheria - it is not, like that of smallpox, forgotten - and most of them have the good sense to grasp that they are being offered a real protection for their children.

To thank by name or office all that have helped in the work this report records and in its compilation would make it too long, but I must as last year, note my gratitude to Mr. R. A. Lusty, the Acting Clerk to the Rural District Council, who though always busy has always been cordially helpful.

Lastly it is right to record with regret the death, while this report was compiling of Mr. A. E. Harris, Senior Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

He was so quietly competent that it was easy to overlook how hard and accurately he worked.

The former Clerk in the Public Health and Surveyor's Department, Mr. Nelson Company, has also died after a long and painful illness.

He was an excellent Clerk and most helpful colleague and, though his place has been admirably filled, has been greatly missed.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies
and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ALAN MOORE

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
The Watch Oak,
Battle.

18th September, 1945.

Statistics & Social Conditions

Area in acres	.. .. .	117,059
Population in 1944	.. .. .	24,990
No. of inhabited dwellinghouses	.. .. .	9,786
No. of rateable premises in the year ending March 31st, 1943	.. .. .	11,043
Rateable Value	.. .. .	£192,494
Sum represented by a penny rate for the Financial Year ending March 31st, 1944	..	£740.7.10d.

Occupation & Industry

The chief industries are agriculture and dairy farming.

The Gypsum Mine in Mountfield parish was employing in December, 1944.

English Labour

Italian Labour

Surface	80 male	Underground	25 male
	11 female		
Underground	167 male		

The English workers increased by about 30 from the beginning of November.

Other important industries are a tannery, a jam factory and a steel window-frame factory at Battle and near Rye two factories where piles, slabs, curbs, pipes and other things are made from concrete mixed with the local beach.

At Camber is another factory working with concrete and an engineering works.

Port of Rye

Owing to the war only one trading vessel entered the port, twice, in 1944. 24 of the 62 fishing boats working from the port usually berthed at Rye Harbour in the parish of Icklesham.

It may now be told that from 1940 about 240 craft on national service have used the port.

Unemployment

This was negligible, perhaps two men and two women.

<u>Live Births</u>	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	191	185	376
Illegitimate	16	21	37

Live Birth-Rate per 1,000 of Resident Population 16.52

Live Birth-Rate per 1,000 for England and Wales 17.6

<u>Stillbirths</u>	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	9	2	11
Illegitimate		1	1

Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total births live and still 28.23

<u>Deaths</u> (Civilian only)	Male	Female	
	172	187	
Nett death-rate per 1,000 of estimated population			14.36

The corrected Death-rate cannot be given. The Areal comparability factor for 1944 is not available.

Death Rate for England and Wales 11.6

Maternal Mortality

Deaths from puerperal infection 0

Deaths from other maternal causes 0

Maternal Mortality Rate for England & Wales
(all causes, but not abortion) 1.93

Infant Mortality

	Male	Female
Deaths of Infants under one year of age		
Legitimate	4	7
Illegitimate	2	-

Infant Death Rate per 1,000 live births 31.47

Infant Death Rate for England and Wales 46.

Death Rate of legitimate infants per 1,000
legitimate live births 29.65

Death Rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000
illegitimate live births 54.05

Death from diarrhoea, under 2 years of age 0

Death Rate from diarrhoea and enteritis, of children
under 2 years of age per 1,000 live births in
England and Wales 4.8

Two deaths occurred from whooping cough, male and female

No deaths occurred from diphtheria, scarlet fever or measles

Death rates for England & Wales, per 1,000 of civilians
Diphtheria 0.02
scarlet fever 0
measles 0.02
whooping cough .03

	Male	Female
Deaths from Cancer	34	26
	Registrar General's figures	
Cancer death-rate per 1,000 of population		2.40
Cancer death-rate for England & Wales not available since 1938, then		1.66

Deaths from Cancer

All deaths are included for which any form of cancer, including sarcoma, was mentioned in the Death Certificate.

The primary seat of disease is given where known.

Two cerebral tumours are not included for lack of evidence of their nature.

Fuller information received by the Registrar General after certification may cause a discrepancy between his figures and those of our Death Register.

Ages	Alimentary Canal including oesophagus but not pharynx.		Breast		Lungs & Bronchi		Other	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
10 - 24							2	
25 - 29								
30 - 34								
35 - 39								
40 - 44								
45 - 49				1				1
50 - 54							1	2
55 - 59	3	1		3	2			1
60 - 64	2	3		1			1	1
65 - 69	3	1		1			4	1
70 - 74	4	1			1		3	1
75 & over	4	4		3		1	3	

General Provision of Health Services

Medical Officer of Health, part-time, with Tuberculosis work under the East Sussex County Council till March 31st, and school work under the East Sussex County Council. M.O.H. also for the Borough of Rye.	Alan Moore, M.B. D.P.H.
Deputy Medical Officer of Health	Col. J.E.H. Sawyer, M.D. M.R.C.P.
Senior Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor (has since died)	A. E. Harris, C.R.S.I. M.S.I.A.
Sanitary Inspector and Deputy Surveyor.	W. Francis, C.R.S.I. M.S.I.A.
Sanitary Inspector and Assistant Surveyor	W. Ramsden, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.
Works Engineer, Water Engineer & Housing Manager	G. A. Bramley, F.I.A.S. M.Inst. R.A.
Chief Clerk in the Public Health and Surveyor's Department.	Miss E. Whatley.

Adoptive Acts

Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890.

Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 16, 18, 19, 20, ~~21~~, 24.

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890

Sections 34, 35, 38, 39, 40, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46 are in force in the whole District, and Section 37 under the Battle Rural (Urban Powers) Order, 1935, is in force in the contributory places of Battle, Broomhill, Crowhurst, Fairlight, Guestling, Icklesham, Ore, Pett, St. Thomas the Apostle Winchelsea, Salehurst and Westfield.

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907.

Sections 17, 22, 27, 30, 32, and 33.

Section 33 is repealed as far as Byelaws are concerned.

Public Health Act, 1925.

Sections 14 and 24 are in force in the whole District.

Sections 21 and 22, now exercisable exclusively by the County Council are in force in the Parish of Battle.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1934.

Section 1 was adopted on November 1st, 1934.

The Battle Rural (Urban Powers) Order, 1937.

In operation since January 9th, 1937. It deals with special expenses for fireplugs in certain parishes.

The Battle R.D.C. has urban powers by virtue of the following sections of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Section 46 deals with sanitary conveniences in factories, workshops and workplaces. In force throughout the District.

Section 263: water courses in urban districts not to be culverted except in accordance with approved plans. In force in the contributory places of Battle, Brede, Burwash, Etchingham, Fairlight, Guestling, Icklesham, Northiam, Pett, Salehurst, Ticehurst and Westfield.

Section 264: Urban Authorities may require repair and cleansing of culverts. In force as Section 263.

Byelaws

New Building Byelaws came into force on April 1st 1939.

New Eyelaws for New Streets came in force on June 1st, 1939.

New Byelaws for Hop & Fruit pickers came into force on June 1st, 1939.

Byelaws for slaughter houses, adopted on or after January 1st, 1934 by the Battle Urban District Council.

Immunization against Diphtheria

Col. J. E.H. Sawyer gave about 855 injections during the year.

The immunizing material used is A.P.T. Two injections, of 0.2 c.c. and 0.5 c.c. are given. The usual interval between them is about six weeks but may be as long as three months.

Immunization should be established in twelve weeks after the second injection.

The best age to immunize is at or near the end of a baby's first year.

Experience has shewn that it is advisable to give a third injection on reaching school age to children who have had the two inoculations in infancy. 205 children were thus re-immunized by the Deputy M.O.H. in 1944.

In term time five or six clinics are held a week. They are arranged from the office.

Posters are put up in each village announcing the clinic about seven days before it is to be held.

District Nurses and Head Teachers are notified of all clinics and are sent consent forms. Leaflets for distribution have also been sent to Nurses.

From the Food Office are got lists of children under 5 who come into the District. The lists are sent to the Nurses who visit to find out whether the children have had both or either of the necessary inoculations.

The parent of every child to be immunized is notified when a clinic is to be held in the parish. If after several notifications the child has not attended a letter is sent to the District Nurse who visits and tries, often successfully, to persuade the mother to bring the child.

When children leave the District before they have received both injections the Medical Officer of the District to which they go is written to and asked to arrange for the inoculations to be completed.

A return has to be sent to the Ministry of Health every six months giving the number of children under 5 and of 5 to 14 inclusive who completed the course of immunization in the six months.

Estimated numbers of children in the District of the two groups have also to be supplied and the percentage of each group considered to be immunized at the end of each 6-monthly period. Also further information to shew if the inoculations have been protective should diphtheria have occurred.

The figures for the first 6 months of 1944 were:

<u>Completed Inoculation</u>			
Under five:	106	Aged 5 - 14:	31
<u>Estimated Numbers of children</u>			
"	2,153	"	3,510
<u>Estimated percentage immunized</u>			
"	39.06	"	80.76

For the second 6 months it was much harder to estimate the number of children aged 5 to 14 because the Food Office, whence the figures came had changed its age-grouping from 5 to 15 to 5 to 18. However the Ministry of Health was able to supply population figures for mid 1944 which would not be very different at the end of the year. Working with these, for the second six months:

<u>Completed Inoculation</u>			
Under five:	169	Aged 5 - 14:	29
<u>Numbers of children (at mid-1944)</u>			
	2,001		3,451
<u>Estimated percentage immunized</u>			
	33.83		83.33

Actually the percentages of those immunized must be higher because some children were treated privately.

Schools

The following were closed for the reasons and for the times given.

<u>School</u>	<u>Reason for closing</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Closed by</u>
Brightling	scarlet fever	Jan. 30 to Feb. 4th	L.S.A.
Winchelsea	measles	Feb. 7th to Feb. 11th	L.S.A.
Staplecross	measles	Feb. 28th to March 3rd	S.M.O.
Ewhurst	whooping cough	June 14th to June 28th	L.S.A.

Most of the children seen were in good condition. The effect of school dinners is marked. These are provided at all the schools in the District and at Rye except at Brightling, Etchingham, Stonegate, Udimore, Winchelsea and Sedlescombe. The last used to have them but the canteen was damaged and a new one has not yet been built.

Every child is able to have milk at school if its parents wish and nearly all the children have it.

The late Chief Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, Mr. A. E. Harris, reported as follows noting that certain factors such as petrol restrictions and the heavy flying bomb attacks have resulted in considerable interference with the normal work of the Department.

PUBLIC HEALTH & HOUSING ACTS.

No. of inspections in regard to drainage and Sanitary Accommodation	..	351
No. of inspections in regard to water supply	..	250
No. of visits to cowsheds, dairies and milk premises	..	482
No. of new building inspections	.. .. .	76
No. of Hop-pickers' lodgings (visits to farms)	..	77
No. of visits for Infectious Diseases	.. .. .	71
No. of visits in connection with Salvage	.. ..	384
No. of visits in connection with Refuse Collection	..	80
No. of visits to food shops and premises	.. ..	136
No. of inspections in regard to dwelling houses under Public Health and Housing Acts	.. ..	383
No. of visits in regard to Town Planning	.. ..	113
No. of visits in regard to Moveable Dwellings	..	5
No. of visits in regard to Sewage Works and disposal	..	114
No. of visits in regard to Nuisances	.. .. .	36
No. of visits in regard to Factories & Workshops	..	12
No. of visits to schools	.. .. .	12
No. of visits to verminous premises	.. .. .	14
No. of visits in regard to Enemy Action	.. ..	51
No. of visits in regard to Civil Defence	.. ..	45
No. of miscellaneous visits	.. .. .	33

Notices served under Public Health Acts

No. of informal Notices served	77
No. of informal Notices complied with	.. .. .	47
No. of Statutory Notices served	.. .. .	6
No. of Statutory Notices complied with	.. .. .	2
Premises where work was carried out by Council in default		3

Notices served under Housing Acts

No. of preliminary notices served	31
No. of preliminary notices complied with	.. .. .	13
No. of Statutory Notices served	.. .. .	3
No. of Statutory Notices complied with	.. .. .	NIL

MILK & DAIRIES

No. of registered milk producers Dec. 1944	560
No. of registered retailers Dec. 1944	76
No. of new cowsheds constructed	6
No. of new dairies constructed	11
No. of existing cowsheds reconstructed	3
No. of existing dairies improved	2
No. of premises where drainage improved	5
No. of water supplies improved	7
Total No. of samples of milk submitted for Methylene Blue Test	219
Taken from Producers:	
No. of samples satisfactory	72
No. of samples unsatisfactory	59
Taken from Retailers:	
No. of samples satisfactory	73
No. of samples unsatisfactory	15
No. of wholesale producers registered during 1944 ..	19
No. of retail purveyors registered during 1944 ..	2

It is pleasing to note that the results of the samples show a decided improvement upon those taken during the previous year. Two samples out of every three passed the Methylene Blue Test, whereas last year half the samples failed to pass the test. This improvement is largely accounted for by the fact that considerably more samples were obtained during the year from retailers as compared with wholesale producers. Of the 88 samples of milk obtained from retailers no less than 73 were satisfactory i.e. 83%. This indicates that the close contact between the producer-retailer and his customers tends to result in greater attention being paid to clean methods of production.

On the whole, very little improvement was made in the structural condition of cowsheds and dairies, this being due almost entirely to the extreme shortage of labour and materials consequent upon war damage repairs.

Meat Inspection

No animals were slaughtered at the private Slaughterhouses in the District during the year 1944, all slaughtering having been transferred to the Government Slaughterhouse at Hastings in August, 1941.

Other Foods:-

During the year the following foods, weighing approximately 1050 lbs., were found to be unfit for food and were withheld from sale for human consumption.

109 $\frac{3}{4}$	lbs. Pork Luncheon Meat
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs. Minced Beef Loaf
43	tins Milk
28	tins Pilchards
11	tins Salmon
39	lbs. Biscuits
5 $\frac{1}{4}$	lbs. Raisins
10	ozs. Tea
1	lb. 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. Chocolate
5	tins Soup
12	tins Coffee
40	Carcasses of Mutton
6	tins Peas
7	lbs. Marmalade
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs. Kidney
3	lbs. Suet
21	tins Herrings
20	tins Sardines
4	tins Fruit
153 $\frac{1}{4}$	lbs. Pork
5	tins Stewed Steak
1	tin Sausage Meat
1	tin Vegetables
27	lbs. Jam
23	pkts. Pudding Mixtures
3	lbs. Syrup
15	lbs. Boiled Ham
80	lbs. Butter
150	lbs. Bacon
12	gross packets soup
58	jars Pickles
6	tins Beans
25	lbs. Pork liver
45	lbs. Beef
19	Meat pies
26 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs. Margarine

In addition the following food, amounting to approximately 2,450 lbs., damaged by enemy action, was found to be unfit for human consumption, and was withheld from sale.

32 $\frac{1}{4}$	lbs. Margarine
220	lbs. Butter
38	lbs. Cheese
690	lbs. Gran Sugar
14	lbs. Brown Sugar
3 $\frac{1}{4}$	lbs. Tea
6	lbs. Cocoa
2	bottles Coffee
8	bottles Soft Drinks
18	lbs. Sausages
90	lbs. Flour

9	tins Baking Powder
383	lbs. Rice
71 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs. Cereals
2	pkts. Dried Eggs
106	lbs. Bacon
26	lbs. Ham
96	lbs. Preserves
1	jar Paste
17	jars Meat Extract
50	Oxo Cubes
32	jars Pickles
3	bottles Sauce
98	pints Vinegar
7 $\frac{1}{2}$	ozs. Essences
45	pkts. Gravy Powder
9	pkts. Lemon Crystals
13	Sage & Onion (pkts)
8	tins Salt
92	lbs. Dried Vegetables
10	tins Baked Beans
1	Jelly
12	pkts. Custard
25 $\frac{3}{4}$	lbs. Currants & Raisins
73	lbs. Rolled Oats
3	lbs. Semolina
1	tin Milk
245	lbs. Tomatoes
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs. Chocolate

The total amount of food condemned throughout the year was approximately 3,500 lbs.

FACTORIES & WORKSHOPS

No routine inspections of factories or workshops were made during the year, the work under this heading being confined to dealing with notices received from H.M. Inspector of Factories chiefly in relation to the provision of sanitary accommodation.

No. of informal notices outstanding 31.12.43	..	..	1
No. of informal notices served	..	..	3
No. of informal notices complied with	..	..	2
No. of informal notices outstanding	..	..	2

HOP-PICKERS' ACCOMMODATION

Circumstances made it impossible to pay as much attention to the condition of hop-picker's camps as in previous years, but despite the very trying circumstances, a number of improvements were carried out. 35 new huts were erected to replace defective and damaged ones and a number of dilapidated huts were made weatherproof. Approved cookhouses and improved water supply and sanitary accommodation were also provided.

It was unfortunate that on account of labour difficulties it was not possible to carry out a great deal of work to which the growers had agreed.

WATER SUPPLY

At the request of the Public Health Committee, I submitted a comprehensive report upon existing supplies within each parish, including details of area, population and rateable value. This report was circulated to members of the Council, with a view to forming a basis for discussion on post war policy in relation to the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944.

Undoubtedly the extremely low rainfall of the past two years aggravated the situation so far as water supplies within the district were concerned. Increased demands, due to the evacuation of population from the towns to rural areas, together with the increased supplies required for agricultural and military purposes collectively focused attention on the precarious position of this District in relation to public water supplies.

At the outbreak of war, only nine parishes were served with main supplies and six partially served. The remaining seventeen parishes had no main supplies whatsoever. Even in the parishes which were served, the mains did not extend to isolated properties and farms, but I consider that these could be dealt with by the increased use of grants for individual water schemes.

In classifying the needs of the various parishes, regard must be paid to the Hastings Corporation Darwell Hole Reservoir Scheme, which, when completed, will ease the situation generally in the coastal area. In my opinion, consideration should urgently be given to the provision of main supplies to the following parishes, Broomhill and St. Thomas the Apostle Winchelsea - Camber, Icklesham - Winchelsea Beach, Pett, Iden, Guestling, Mountfield, Sedlescombe, Peasmarsch, Beckley, Brede, Udimore, Brightling, Dallington, Ewhurst and Westfield.

Water Samples

During the year, 33 samples of water were submitted for chemical analysis and bacteriological examination, mostly from suspected supplies. Of these samples, 23 were reported to be polluted or otherwise unsatisfactory, and appropriate action has been taken.

49 houses were connected to the mains during the year.

Analysis of Public Supplies

Heathfield & District Water Co. - Analysed by R. F. Wright
9 samples were taken with satisfactory results

Cranbrook District Water Co. - Analysed by the Counties
Public Health Laboratories
4 samples were taken with satisfactory results

Battle Rural District Council - Analysed by the Counties
Public Health Laboratories
1 sample was taken with satisfactory results

Rain Water Supplies

Grave concern is felt by the Department regarding the reopening of the evacuated coastal districts where stored rain water is the only source of supply apart from that carted to the areas by contractors. The condition of the collecting areas and long standing disuse of storage tanks will make the use of such stored rain water more dangerous than it normally would have been.

In view of the doubtful quality of stored rain water at any time, it is to be hoped that no further building developments or caravan licences will be permitted in those parts of the district until at least a main water supply is available.

SEWERAGE & SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The problem of sewerage and sewage disposal, like that of water supply, is extremely difficult, and will become a menace to public health when main water becomes available in the various parishes. This applies particularly to the coastal area. As water schemes are completed, sewerage schemes in these areas must inevitably follow.

At the outbreak of war, sewerage schemes were under consideration in respect of the Camber area and improvements and extensions to the existing Battle scheme. Icklesham village, and particularly the sewerage outfall at Place Farm, recently received consideration owing to the serious nuisance which is occurring at the outfall. These schemes are urgent necessities.

Burwash and Northiam have main water supplies, but both parishes are very inadequately sewered and have no proper outfall works. It is imperative that consideration should be given to these parishes in dealing with post-war schemes.

Although Sedlescombe and Dellingington Street areas have no main water supplies there is a pressing need for the provision of some suitable form of sewage disposal.

ROBERTSBRIDGE SEWERAGE

Referring to my last Annual Report on the efficiency of the Robertsbridge Sewerage Scheme, particularly with regard to the infiltration of surface water, the works which were carried out proved satisfactory until November, 1944, when a heavy rainfall occurred. This caused flooding in the low lying parts, in the neighbourhood of Station Road.

Fortunately this was of short duration and house drains were only affected for a period of one day. At the end of the year further investigations were being carried out, but I am of opinion that until such time as the whole question of storm water infiltration into the sewers and particularly the question of the old sewers in Brightling Road, is dealt with, a recurrence of this condition is likely. It seems quite probable that these old sewers, which did not form part of the new scheme, may have to be relaid.

BURWASH SEWERAGE

Owing to complaints received regarding the overflow of sewage into premises in the High Street, Burwash, it was necessary to relay a length of sewer (approximately 500 ft.) to replace the old stone sewer in the road.

RYE HARBOUR SEWERAGE

Arising from the inefficiency of the existing pumps at this Station it was necessary to replace one of the oil driven pumps with an electric motor pump. This considerably improved matters, but it is now urgently necessary to replace the other worn out pump.

SEWER OUTFALLS

It was not possible to give the usual attention to sewer outfalls during the year owing to labour difficulties which made it impossible to obtain contracts for carrying out the necessary work. It is therefore imperative that labour will have to be made available for this work during 1945, otherwise these outfalls will become serious nuisances.

RURAL HOUSING

Circumstances prevailing throughout the country and particularly in this district, prevented any real housing activity during the year. Whereas in peace time it was the duty of the Department to make inspections of the district and to enforce the repair of working class houses, the position during the year 1944 was entirely the reverse. The only inspections made were as the result of complaints received, and even in those cases, only the most essential work was enforced. The labour problem became so acute that many desirable improvements could not be carried out and Certificates of Essentiality were only granted in the most necessitous cases.

The complete lack of facilities prevented a start being made on the Rural Housing Survey, although steps were taken to increase the staff of the Department and a number of meetings of the Joint County Committee on Rural Housing were attended.

During the year 1945, it is hoped that the Technical Sub-Committee will formulate uniform standards which will form the basis for the housing survey.

POLICE COURT PROCEEDINGS

Rye Police Court

Appeal against Demolition order.

Appeal adjourned sine die.

SALVAGE

The total amount of salvage collected during the year was less than in previous years, although this was only to be expected in view of the thorough comb-out during the early years of the war. It became increasingly difficult to locate any large quantities of ferrous metals and with the decrease in the amount of paper available for salvage purposes, it was not always possible to reach the high monthly target figure of 30 tons. Nevertheless it is gratifying to note that well over 300 tons were collected during the year. This total would not have been possible without the assistance rendered by Councillor R. H. Crofton, Vice Chairman of the Council, who has taken the leading part in the Salvage Campaign from its inception.

A Book Drive was held within the District from the 12th to 26th February. The target of 51,000 books was easily passed, no less than 69,200 books and magazines being collected.

The following table shows the amount of salvage collected during the year:

	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	129	11	1	26	925	6.	10
Ferrous Metal	147	7	0	24	367	13	5
Non-ferrous Metal	9	15	2	14	213	10	5
Bottles & Jars	13	12	0	0	45	1	1
Mixed Rags	9	15	0	0	204	10	6
Rubber	3	10	3	25	7	12	5
Bones	7	4	3	0	28	19	0
Sundries				20		8	4
Cullet.	1	10	0	0	-	-	-
	322	7	0	25	1793	2	0

Total collected since commencement of Scheme to 31.12.44

1860 tons 0 cwts 2 qrs. 9 lbs. £8452. 10. 5 (Cash value)

REFUSE COLLECTION & DISPOSAL

The year 1944 was undoubtedly the most difficult year since the Council undertook the collection and disposal of refuse. Labour difficulties increased considerably as the year progressed and a great deal of valuable time was lost as the result of breakdowns in the transport system. Numerous requests were made to the Ministry of Labour and National Service for the replacement of drivers and loaders, without success, and despite the fact that the Council agreed to purchase two new refuse collection lorries in April, these had not been delivered at the end of the year. The result was that in a number of districts collections could only be made on a very limited number of occasions during the year and at one time it appeared that the whole scheme might collapse completely. However I am pleased to report that at the end of the year the position was much better, it having been possible to secure the necessary minimum labour required and the delivery of the new lorries was promised at an early date in 1945.

NEW DWELLINGS

During the year new dwellings were erected as under:-

Playden	(under £19 rateable value)	4
Dwellings incomplete at 31.12.44		10

The four houses above referred to were those constructed in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture for the housing of rural workers.

RATS & MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.
INFESTATION ORDER, 1943.

Pursuant to Article 5 of the above mentioned Order the Minister of Food issued on the 12th November, 1943 directions to Local Authorities to perform in their area the following functions:-

The making of comprehensive reports to the Minister, with respect to:

1. The extent to which land and premises are subject to infestation by rats and mice.

2. To take measures to remedy infestations in their District.

3. To report upon methods adopted in dealing with infestations in their area.

In view of these directions the Council appointed two Rodent Officers Mr. J. Dixon and Mr. A. J. French on the 7th March, 1944 to make a complete survey of the district.

The survey was commenced on the 7th March. 1,276 visits were made to various premises, with the result that 106 major infestations and 276 minor infestations were discovered. Up to the 31st December 168 premises had been cleared of rats.

Visits made by the Rodent Officers totalled 2,891.

At the request of the Rye Borough Council for assistance in carrying out their survey the Battle Rural District Council agreed to second Mr. French to that Authority for a period of six months, and to extend the said period as the occasion required, the Rye Borough Council paying all expenses.

In dealing with the problem of rat destruction, the Minister suggested the establishment of Workable Areas and the East Sussex No. 3 Workable Area Committee was formed, consisting of Eastbourne, Hastings, Bexhill, Hailsham, Rye, and Battle Council Areas whose representatives meet at Bexhill about every quarter.

This Council is represented on the Committee by Councillor Mighall, who reports action taken.

Cases of disease other than tuberculosis notified in 1944, Civilians only.

	1943	1944	Admissions to Isolation Hospitals in 1944
scarlet fever	33	34	26
diphtheria	4	2	2
puerperal pyrexia	3	3	-
ophthalmia neonatorum	1	2	-
anterior poliomyelitis	0	1	1
cerebro-spinal meningitis	0	0	-
pneumonia	28	24	-
erysipelas	5	4	3
measles	544	49	-
whooping cough	5	122	2

No case of pneumonia was noted as influenzal in 1944. In 1943, 10 of the 28 cases notified were stated to be influenzal.

AGE GROUPS

	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-34	35-44	45-64	65 & over
scarlet fever		1	1	3		14	11		3	1		
diphtheria						1			1			
puerperal pyrexia									3			
ophthalmia neonatorum	2											
anterior poliomyelitis							1					
cerebro-spinal meningitis												
pneumonia	1			1	1	1	1	1	1	3	7	7
erysipelas											3	1
measles		2	3	1	2x	25xx	9	3	2	2		
whooping cough	10	6	11	2	11+	69++	11		2			

Neither of the diphtheria patients had received protective inoculations.

x 1 had whooping cough at the same time
 xx 2 had whooping cough at the same time
 + 1 had measles at the same time
 ++ 2 had measles at the same time

Scarlet fever in 1944

Incidence in parishes for each month, civilians only.

<u>Month</u>	<u>Parish and number of cases in each</u>	
January	Ticehurst	2 cases
	Brightling	2 "
	Udimore	1 case
February	Ticehurst	1 case
	Icklesham	1 "
March	Ticehurst	1 case
	Burwash	7 cases
	Sedlescombe	1 case
	Brightling	1 "
April	Brede	1 case
May	Ticehurst	2 cases
July	Broomhill	1 case
	Brightling	3 cases
September	Westfield	1 case
	Salehurst	1 "
	Ticehurst	1 "
	Burwash	1 "
October	Ticehurst	1 case
	Battle	2 cases
November	Ticehurst	1 case
	Westfield	1 "
December	Guestling	1 "

Notifications under the Food & Drugs Act, 1938
of Food-poisoning or suspected Food-poisoning.

<u>Month</u>	<u>Parish</u>	
July	Westfield	2 cases
August	Westfield	2 cases
	Guestling	1 case
	Pett	2 cases
September	Icklesham	5 cases
October	Burwash	4 cases

Scabies

Scabies seemed to occur less often than in 1943 but since it is not a notifiable disease it is impossible to be sure how prevalent it is.

Cases, some of them not new, were reported or found to need treatment as follows:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Parish</u>
January	Battle Catsfield Salehurst Westfield East Guldeford
February	Brede Fairlight Salehurst
March	Battle Beckley
April	Brede Sedlescombe
May	Crowhurst
June	Guestling Battle Salehurst
July	Guestling
December	Fairlight Guestling Ticehurst

Pediculosis

In March some of nine Irish labourers at the Agricultural Hostel at Houghton Green, Iden, were found to be infested with lice. Since some of the labourers were from Co. Galway where the louse-borne disease typhus was, and probably is, endemic cleansing was important. It proved unexpectedly difficult but was done at last through the good offices of Dr. J. Fenton, Medical Officer of Health of Eastbourne.

Tuberculosis

Action under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925:
none required.

Action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis)
Regulations, 1925: none required.

Cases notified for the first time including those notified by
letter from the County Tuberculosis Officer. Civilians only
are noted except when a Service man's home was in the District.

Age Groups	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1				
1 - 4	1			
5 - 14				1
15 - 24		1		
25 - 34	3x	5	1	
35 - 44	1	1		
45 - 54		1		
55 - 64		1+		
65 & above				

x invalided from Army + at Battle Institution from
Bexhill.

Cases in Register Dec. 31st 1944 & 1943

	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
1944	50	74	27	32
1943	45	67	25	31

Tuberculosis Deaths

That is to say deaths of people who lived in the District &
died there and deaths of those who belonged or had till
recently belonged to the District but died outside it in
Hospital or elsewhere.

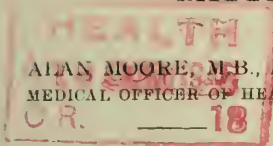
Age Groups	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1				1+
25 - 34		3		
35 - 44				1++
55 - 64	1			

+ tuberculosis doubtful (meningitis) ++ not in Register
not in tuberculosis register.

Original on 1910/10 000

LIBRARY

BATTLE RURAL DISTRICT

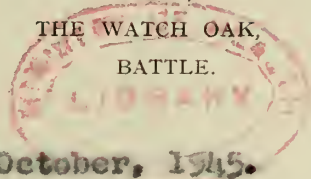


ALAN MOORE, M.B., D.P.H.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

TEL. BATTLE 215 & 216

COUNCIL OFFICES,

THE WATCH OAK,
BATTLE.



AM/MH

18th October, 1945.

Battle Rural District - Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health.

The Public Health Committee to-day resolved when the M.O.H.'s Annual Report was presented, that on page 25, after the mention of the Medical Officers of the mobile first aid posts etc. it should be recorded that there were also 19 Emergency Medical Officers.

It was also resolved that on page 26 after 'man-killing bombs' '(anti-personnel)' should be added. 'Man-killing' was the M.O.H.'s translation into English of 'anti-personnel'.

Alan Moore.

Civil Defence

Sub-Controller Col. W.E.Hume-Spry, D.S.O. M.B.E.
Voluntary Staff Officer to Miss Sturt.
Casualty Services

Rescue Parties were at

Battle	2
Catsfield	1
Burwash	1
Guestling	1
Robertsbridge	1
Winchelsea	1

Late in the year the Winchelsea Party went to Northiam.

Detached Sections (with hand cart)

Northiam
That at Ticehurst came to nothing
for lack of personnel

A mobile First Aid Post and a light mobile unit at Battle in charge of Dr. W. E. Davidson and Dr. T. Neville Wood.

The same at Robertsbridge under Dr. E. C. Maxwell and Dr. R. Dingley.

42 First Aid Points of which 7 were Up-graded.

A summary may now be given of what has occurred in the District from the direct action of the Enemy and resulting from it since the beginning of the war in September 1939 to the end of 1944. The information comes from the Sub-Controller's Department.

Alerts 2,472

Incidents 989

High Explosive bombs 1,327, of which 212 failed to explode

Oil bombs 52

Incendiary bombs, about 12,560

Flying bombs, in 1944, 403 of which 2 did not explode.
Of the 403, 351 fell on the land, 54 either in the sea within three miles, or just outside but quite near the boundary of the District.

Shells, unexploded anti-aircraft 36

Aircraft of the enemy which came down 17

Machine gun and cannon fire incidents 39

'Mines', really para-chute bombs 3. One of them did not explode.

Other missiles

man-killing bombs	115	
'sprengbrands'	6	(incendiaries with an explosive charge)
phosphorus bombs	16	
phosphorus bombs (unexploded)	33	
Long range rockets	1,	in 1944
British & Allied aircraft which crashed	46.	Of these 7 were in action with flying bombs

Casualties

Killed or died in hospital, civilians,	28
military	5
Severely injured civilians (including 1 in Civil Defence)	75
military	12
Slightly injured civilians (including 3 in Civil Defence)	249
military	14

Airmen

British & Allied, killed	about	30
Enemy, killed	"	30
British & Allied, injured	26 attended by Civil Defence	
Enemy	15 " " " " members	

Damage to Property

Inhabited houses destroyed	105
Inhabited houses severely damaged but reparable	153
Inhabited houses slightly damaged, not counting premises requisitioned by the Army	5,575
Farm houses damaged besides the above	506
Damaged Farm buildings at an average of 4 to a farm	2,824
Churches	19 damaged
Chapels	5 "

T H E E N D.

